August 10c

Equality

THE AMERICAN WAY ★ EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

America's REAL Fifth Column

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Who Wants CONSCRIPTION?

CALL TO THE EMERGENCY PEACE MOBILIZATION

Chicago — August 31, September 1 and 2, 1940

Mobilize for Peace to Defend Democratic America!

The lengthening shadow of war creeps over our land.

Powerful voices—spreading confusion and hysteria—demand that our youth shed their blood on foreign soil. Powerful voices suggest in the name of security that we Nazify America and come to terms with Hitler.

They would exploit youth's desire to defend our country, our people, and our free institutions in order to conscript, gag, and regiment them in labor camps.

They would exploit labor's desire to defend our country, our people, and our free institutions by the stealthy application of M-Day plans in order to shackle labor and subvert our democratic rights.

Are we to permit—by silence or inaction—this destruction of everything we have struggled to build up for generations? The few who cry for war are as nothing compared to 93% of the people who want peace -if the people speak!

How are we to adjust ourselves to the cataclysmic developments in Europe and throughout the world? How are we to prevent American involvement in war? How are we to defend America and at the same time preserve our free institutions and advance our standards of living?

These are the crucial questions before the American people!

In this hour when action is imperative, we call upon all organizations of the people—labor, farm, youth, church, cooperative, fraternal—regardless of race, creed or color, to take part in an

EMERGENCY PEACE MOBILIZATION

To be held in the City of Chicago on August 31, September 1 and 2, 1940.

In this setting, we the people shall discuss this grave emergency and work out a common program to attain our common ends. Together we shall find the power in our mutual strength to achieve what we all want . . .

to defend America . . .

to keep America democratic . . .

to keep America out of war!

Program

REGISTRATION: Continuous from 6:00 p.m., Friday, August 30 through 12 noon Sunday, Sept. 1.

Saturday, August 31—Afternoon 2:30 p.m.
Business Session, Election of Committees
Evening 8:00 p.m., MASS MEETING

Sunday, September 1—Morning 8:30 a.m.
Invocation and Religious Service
9:30 a.m. *Dictatorship or Democracy*
How war affects life, liberty and pursuit of happiness in America

Afternoon 2:30 p.m.
How to Keep America Out of War
A discussion of our foreign policy

Evening 8:00 p.m.
Discussion & Adoption of Comm. Reports

Monday, September 2—Morning 9:00 a.m.
State & Regional Delegation Meetings

Afternoon 2:30 p.m.
Mobilizing America for Peace

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

All organizations are entitled to send delegates to the Emergency Peace Mobilization.

National organizations may send 10 delegates.

State organizations—5 delegates.

Local organizations—1 delegate for every 50 members.

Individuals who are deeply concerned with organization for peace are urged to attend the mobilization as visitors.

All visitors will register at the scene of the Emergency Peace Mobilization.

FEES

Delegates and Visitors:—$1.00 for all sessions including Mass Meeting

Information, Petitions, Posters, Additional Calls, Buttons Available at:

COMMITTEE TO DEFEND AMERICA « BY KEEPING OUT OF WAR »

Room 812 « 203 North Wabash Ave. » Chicago, Ill.

About this issue . .

The burning question of today is peace. The sub-issues which surround it are conscription, the real fifth column, the social needs of the American people. That's what EQUALITY has to talk about this month.

To start with, there's an editorial on "America's REAL Fifth Column." What you'll find in that sizzling editorial you won't find in many other publications—and you'll learn why. Right after that you'll come across our opinion of the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill which, unlike housing legislation, relief appropriations or national health bills, is being blitzkrieged through Congress so fast that the American people will have to get together mighty quick to stop it. . . .

How Father Coughlin takes advantage of conflicts within the Jewish community, and the way in which some Jews unwittingly play into his hands is explained in another editorial, "Coughlin's Appeasers." The tactic, incidentally, was not originated by Coughlin, but by the man from whom he's borrowed most of his other ideas—Adolf Hitler.

The American Youth Congress, which has been getting a bad break in the newspapers, is given an opportunity to present its side through the pen of one of its leaders. JOE CADDEN. Most people don't know what those kids who met in Wisconsin really asked for, because the papers occupied nine-tenths of their space with reports of how Mr. Gene Tunney, who was once a good boxer but not too much of a political thinker, made a darn fool of himself.

DR. WALTER NEFF heads the New York division of an organization that is fighting like the dickens for peace. You don't hear much about him because in his case, too, the newspapers are guilty of boycotting the truth. Yet his organization represents several million people, and its program, if the Gallup Poll means anything, embodies the desires of the 93 per cent of the American people who want peace.

And finally, HERBERT LANSNER, our Associate Editor, takes time out to reveal a few more facts about that phoney Christian Front trial that ended a short while ago. . . .

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS: During the summer months EQUALITY will appear in special issues at ten cents per copy. Necessary adjustments will be made to advance subscriptions.

For those who do not yet subscribe to EQUALITY, this coupon is available.

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An Independent, Non-Sectarian Monthly Journal to Defend Democratic Rights and Combat Racial and Religious Intolerance

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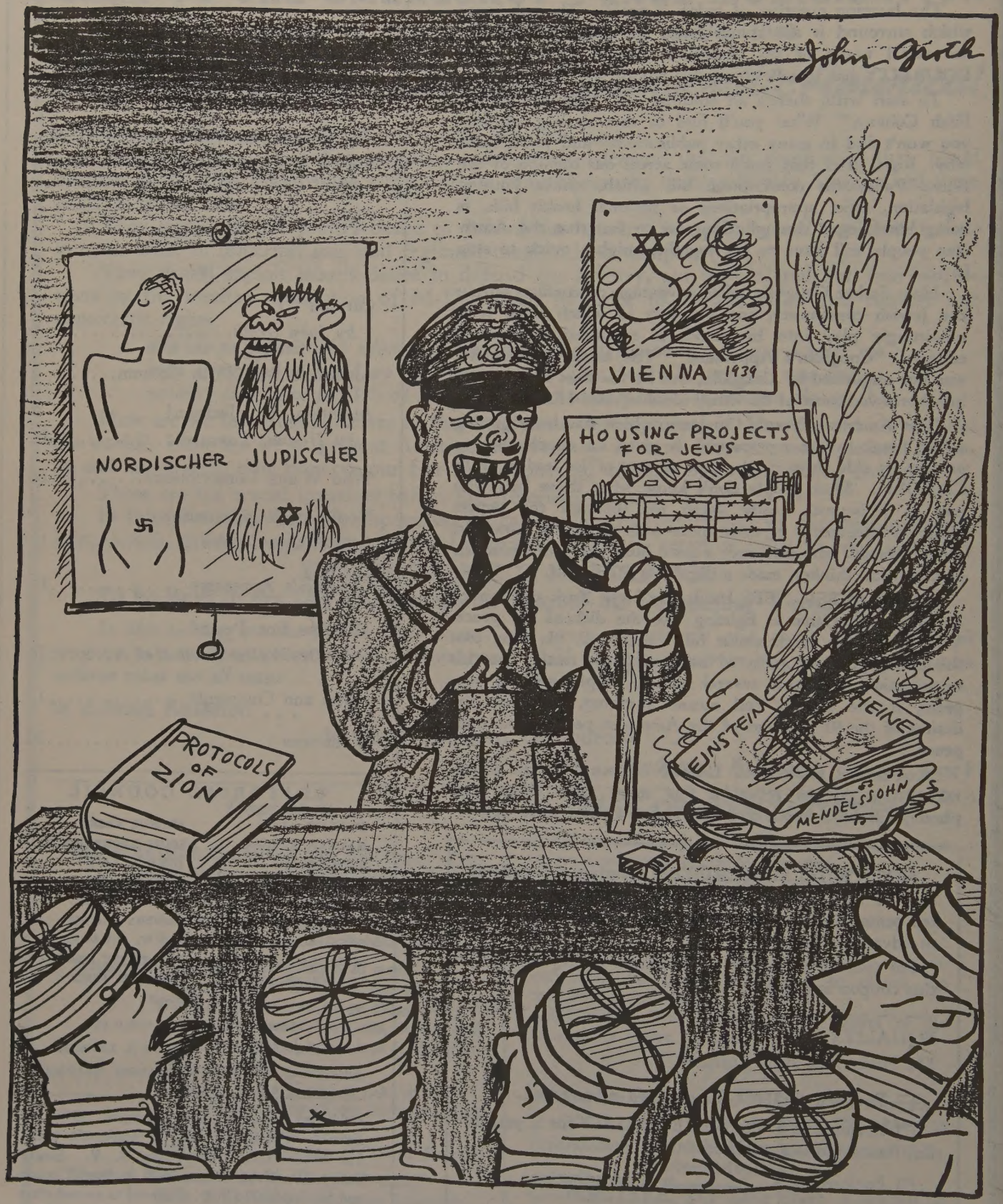

An Expert from Berlin

AMERICA'S REAL FIFTH COLUMN

THE fifth column was born in Spain in the year 1936. It had a specific meaning, a direct application. It was expressed in the words of General Mola, who was marching on Loyalist Madrid with his fascist army.

"I have four columns of soldiers, and a fifth column in Madrid."

The people of the duly-elected Spanish Republic, poorly fed, under-armed, untrained, had held off the four columns of the fascist army for many months in all parts of Spain. Against a powerful military force, tremendously superior in equipment, a determined people imbued with the highest democratic ideals had been able to defend itself. But there was an enemy that could not be faced because it worked in the rear, always under cover. General Mola knew. General Franco knew. The fascist army had four columns. But within Madrid itself was another column—the fifth column. It consisted of fascist saboteurs who knifed the Loyalists in the back—and who served after the war was over as informers responsible for the execution of thousands of innocent citizens whose crime was a belief in the justice of a democratic cause.

This was the fifth column. It had certain definite characteristics. It was anti-democratic. It was anti-labor. It was anti-Semitic. It was fascist or pro-fascist. It worked always behind the scenes, deceiving, disrupting, destroying. It had its agents in high places. It traitors were in the army, in the government.

The fifth column label has come to America. But it has been given a new meaning. It is now used by the very people who fall under its definition—those who are anti-democratic, anti-labor, anti-Semitic, pro-fascist. And it is being turned against those people in America who insist upon the maintenance of democratic rights, who demand the continuance and strengthening of the working-man's privileges, who are opposed to bigotry and intolerance, and who are unyielding in their hatred of fascism. It is being employed by those who are for war against those who are for peace.

The fifth column in America is the same as the fifth column in Spain. By definition it includes the Coughlinites and Christian Frontists, the Bundists, the hundreds of anti-Semitic "patriotic" organizations. It includes those business leaders who have attempted to crush the American labor movement. It includes those who are ready to sell out to Hitlerism under the guise of fighting it, those men in our government who are feverishly intent upon imposing totalitarian rule over the American people.

In the deliberate prostitution of terms such as "fifth-column" lies the root of the confusion that exists in the mind of the people. The ordinary men and women of America are intuitively aware of their real enemies. But they are befuddled by the deluge of false propaganda which is obviously designed to turn their well-founded suspicions elsewhere. Now, more than at any time, it is vitally necessary that basic definitions be understood.

Who Knifed France?

As in Spain, the fifth column stabbed France from behind and caused its death. It was able to accomplish its work in an incredibly short time because its chief agents were in the highest governmental positions.

Look at some of the men in France's recent cabinets. Ybarnegaray, vice-president of De La Rocque's anti-Semitic Croix de Feu, the equivalent of the Silver Shirts in the United States. Petain, a close friend and admirer of the fascist

Spanish dictator, General Franco, and the secret leader of the pro-Nazi Cagoulards which as early as 1934 was caught plotting to set up a fascist regime in France. Pierre Laval, millionaire, owner of a chain of newspapers, friend of Mussolini, admirer of Nazism. Marin, representative of the French steel trust. Bonnet and Baudoin, wealthy bankers sympathetic to Hitler's *Drang Nach Osten*, and Adrien Marquet, their puppet. General Maxim Weygand, a monarchist, involved with Petain in the Cagoulard conspiracy.

The fifth column definition fits. The names mentioned are but a few of those involved. Yet observe the pattern: the admitted fascists in the Cagoulard and Croix de Feu movements, in reality the tools of the big business interests who were determined to crush the powerful French labor movement which was threatening their high profits; in addition, the blundering unwitting instruments of reaction like Leon Blum, alleged friends of labor and democracy, who sabotaged the Popular Front by yielding to the big business interests and their tools. Anti-democratic, anti-labor, anti-Semitic, pro-fascist. The real fifth column.

These men sold out France. They betrayed the people of France. The betrayal began when the Popular Front was destroyed, when social legislation was repealed, when the people of France began to lose their democratic rights. Their treacherous leaders built Hitler up, gave him Central Europe. Then they sacrificed the French people to him. The war against Germany was supposedly a war against fascism. It was doomed to failure because those who assumed its leadership were fascists themselves. They attempted to fight fascism by imposing fascism upon France.

Actually, they were not intent on fighting fascism. The war which devastated France and inflicted horrible suffering upon its people was, for them, a *victory*. Today France has a Fascist state. Its leaders are the men who betrayed their country into a fraudulent war. France's defeat was their triumph.

The American Parallel

America. How much different is the situation in our country? The fifth column technique has been recognized, in all its worth, by American reactionaries. Yes—the fifth column is not only an instrument of the French and Spanish traitors. It has an American counterpart as well.

There is a situation in America which parallels with shocking exactness the situation which existed in France before and during the present war. For a short period of time the people of the United States lived under a New Deal that in some measure alleviated the sufferings of the underprivileged—a New Deal equivalent to the initial stages of the French Popular Front under Leon Blum. But the French New Deal, weakened by the sabotage of agents within the Popular Front, could not stand up against the incessant attacks of France's reactionaries, the Popular Front gave way to the semi-fascist governments which followed, and the end was war. Similarly in the United States the New Deal has given in to big business. Its leaders, like the leaders of the Popular Front, have betrayed their people.

The character of the American Fifth column becomes clear. In America, too, the fifth column was born several years ago. We have our anti-Semites. We have our economic royalists who are viciously anti-labor and are willing to sacrifice democracy to crush it. We have our fascist sympathizers, both "foreign" and 100% American.

Where the fifth column appears it attempts to eradicate all progressive social legislation. It fights against laws which guarantee decent pay and fair working hours for labor. It attempts to split the people by pitting white against black, Jew against Gentile. It suppresses the civil rights of the people, does not let them speak, crushes their organizations, conscripts them against their will.

How does it work?

In America today we witness a violent anti-alien drive. The purpose of alien-baiting is to disrupt the unity of the American people, to foment suspicion. It aims to set one group against another, to create dissenting camps within the nation. It overlooks the fact that America is a nation of "immigrants and sons of immigrants." Behind it is that false theory of racial superiority which today poisons Nazi Germany and which cunning unscrupulous leaders drum into the minds of gullible Ku Kluxers and anti-Semites. It has been used, too, as a convenient screen for the true causes of economic depression by blaming the helpless alien for unemployment and other social ills. Anti-alienism has appeared through-

out American history, always in some unsavory connection, always opposed by the real democratic traditions of our nation.

Anti-alienism is one expression of the fifth column technique. It was a weapon of the French fascists, the German Nazis; and it is practically number one in the bag-of-tricks of our native products. Significantly, the first act of the new French fascist government was the passage of an anti-alien—and anti-Semitic—law. Its most ardent supporters in America are men sympathetic to Nazi ideals.

The most vigorous proponents of anti-alienism in America—who are they?

Among them are Senator Reynolds, fuehrer of the American Vindicators, an admirer of Hitler, an enemy of Negroes, of labor, acknowledged by a Christian Mobilizer speaker as the "nucleus" of their movement; Martin Dies, who sabotages the labor movement, works hand in glove with the Christian Front, refuses to investigate Father Coughlin; Representative Smith of Virginia, a wrecker of labor's rights; Rep. Thorkelson, who inserts Nazi handouts into the Congressional record. *Anti-alienism has been a standing policy of the Ku Klux Klan, of the Silver Shirts, of the Coughlinites.* Every fascist group is anti-alien. Every fascist group is anti-Semitic. Every fascist group is anti-labor. This is a basic fact which, when understood, points the way to a complete clarification of many confusing issues.

Dirty Work—For Whom?

The fifth column is anti-labor. It is at work in America today. As has been pointed out, the alien-baiters without exception are labor-haters. They oppose unionism, they fight against social legislation.

But we must not look only among the Silver Shirts or the Bundists or the Coughlinites. Here it is crystal clear that these fanatical groups are merely *instruments.* In France, the Cagoulards and Croix de Feu were the fronts for the bankers, the big businessmen, the Two Hundred Families that control the country. The fascist groups, with their anti-labor, anti-Semitic and anti-alien policies, did the dirty work for the higher-ups who felt it more politic to maintain a "respectable" appearance.

So, too, in America. They do the will of those most vitally interested in combatting the strength of the labor and democratic movements: the big business interests, the men whom President Roosevelt once called the "economic royalists." The big business men were defeated by the American people in the 1936 elections because the people had begun to understand what they stood for. President Roosevelt once fought against them at a time when he realized that American freedom was threatened by "that concentrated private economic power which is struggling so hard to master our democratic government," to use his own words.

Under a true democracy the laboring man is permitted to fight for and achieve his rights. It is for this reason that big businessmen can play along with democracy only to the point where it begins to threaten their interests and profits, and no further. Then they turn to fascism, then they let loose their Hitlers, Mussolinis, Petains and Coughlins. Fritz Thyssen and the German steel trust backed Hitler; the Two Hundred Families of France backed Petain and his clique. In America in 1935 several Wall Street millionaires unsuccessfully tried to bribe Gen. Smedley D. Butler to lead a fascist army in order to take over Washington.

American big business has never given up the fight. An examination of the facts reveals that the numerous fascist outfits in the United States are linked up with wealthy persons who supply them with money. The fascist organization does double duty. It breaks strikes, terrorizes union organizers, sets up vigilante parties. It is not for nothing that the ties between Father Coughlin and Henry Ford are so cordial, that Thomas Watson, Ford and Lindbergh received awards from Adolph Hitler, that giant corporations hire private armies to protect themselves against labor "agitation."

We must look here, then, for part of the fifth column. How much like France, Germany or England this is! We have a match for every big business mogul and enemy of the people that these and other countries can produce. France has its Two Hundred Families; we have our Sixty Families. England has its Chamberlains, its Lord Lloyds, its Lord Beaverbrooks; we have our Fords, our Hearsts, our Girdlers. Germany had its Thyssens and its Krupps; we have our Morgans, our DuPonts. The list is long. Fascism in Europe was the Frankenstein of such men. They set up their puppet dictators when

the people awakened to their rights, demanded their full of democracy. The fifth column technique comes to a focus when all its aspects are concentrated—when the anti-Semites, the alien-baiters, the reactionaries, the fascists and all their allies combine.

Roosevelt's Blessings

The fifth column cannot succeed unless it takes root in the government itself. In America such a process is already taking place.*

We are aware of men like Thorkelson, Dies, Reynolds, Burke, and we know what they stand for. But we are unfortunately less aware of other equally important factors. *We must realize that the anti-alienism of the bigots now has the support of President Roosevelt and of leading members of his administration, including Attorney-General Jackson. There was a time when the president opposed such policies. He does so no longer. It was his signature which made the Smith Anti-Alien Bill law.*

We must realize that President Roosevelt, who once opposed the unscrupulous Martin Dies, now gives him a virtual Administration blessing, so that he may proceed unhindered with his attacks on unions and progressive organizations.

We must realize, too, that the oppressive tactics of big business, against which the New Deal once fought tooth and nail, are now no longer opposed by the Administration. President Roosevelt once waged the people's battle against the arrogant economic royalists, welcoming their hatred, combatting their greed. *But today? They are in the highest councils of his government, in his cabinet, in his committees.* At the very peak of our government today we find men like Stettinius of J. P. Morgan's U. S. Steel, Knudsen of DuPont-Morgan General Motors, Forrestal of Dillon and Read bankers, and many others of their stripe. The American people repudiated them and their methods in 1936. Today they are in key positions, and they control the people against their will.

It is under their guidance that the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, designed to curb the excesses of monopolistic corporations, has been turned against

Fascist, anti-Semitic France meets with Father Coughlin's approval. It has now become a "Christian" state—like Germany, Italy and Spain. Coughlin also boasts that he is a fifth columnist. But the F. B. I. and the Administration are busy hunting witches, and Coughlin gets away with it.

labor unions. It is under their guidance that the social legislation of the once-upon-a-time New Deal is being crushed piece by piece. And it is under their guidance that the American people must submit to enforced conscription, to be taken from their homes and their jobs.

Yes, our fifth column breeds in high places. Nine Christian Frontists were recently freed because a governmental agency was not eager to press for their conviction. And it did not wish to do so because the Christian Front was playing the government's game of splitting the people and fighting the progressive forces. It is for this reason, too, that the government refuses to investigate Father Coughlin, who arrogantly admits himself to be a fifth columnist. Such splitting and fighting serves a purpose when a government begins to marshall its people for

* Criticism of the Roosevelt administration by no means implies the slightest support of Mr. Willkie.

war. It happened in 1917; it is being repeated today. There are shouts for unity. But the government wants *its kind* of unity—a unity that can only be realized at the expense of those who want peace and social progress; a unity therefore, that represents the will of the 7% of the people who are not opposed to war and ignores the will of the 93% who are.

Fifth Columnists? The appeasers, too. England and France had their appeasers; we have them also. Our Administration at this very moment is selling out China to Japan. The Administration and the wealthy men it now represents fear a democratic China more than they do a fascist Japan, for a democratic Chinese people will rid themselves of the foreign stranglehold. Practically three-quarters of Japan's armaments are made from American scrap iron and American steel. American bombs, then, are tearing to pieces the bodies of hundred of thousands of Chinese men, women and children. Yet President Roosevelt refuses to call for an embargo on Japan. Instead he speaks of big navies and negotiates for Japanese appeasement. Instead he acquiesces to the acceleration of China's death by the closing of the Burma Road—virtually its last avenue of supply. Recent indications that an embargo might be imposed come much too late. *And they come, incidentally, because the American people, once aroused, protested vigorously against our part in slaughtering democratic China. We did not protest soon enough!*

But when the democratic Spanish Republic was fighting for its life against the combined forces of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Franco Spain, President Roosevelt refused to lift the embargo which prevented the legal Spanish government from purchasing supplies for its own defense; and when the fascist Franco triumphed, the United States government recognized his bloody conquest almost before any other government did so. The Roosevelt government supported Munich; it "appeased" the Brazilian fascist Vargas; it is still attempting to undermine the present Mexican government as a favor to the billionaire oil interests.

Appeasement, labelled "Made in America." There are appeasers in the government, and there are the Hoovers, the Lindberghs, the Fords and the Hearsts without. Appeasement, too, is a mark of the fifth column. Its latest expression is Ambassador Bullitt's whitewash of a French government that admits itself to be fascist and anti-Semitic.

Fifth columns? We must know where to look!

Fascism vs. Fascism

There are still some 12,000,000 unemployed in America, and the number of ill-housed, ill-clad and ill-fed has certainly not decreased since 1936. This is the problem which our country faces, a problem which must be solved. Our poor, our underprivileged, our working people, our Negroes, our jobless, our voteless—these are the ones we must help. Their need is immediate. It will not be washed away by wars or preparations for wars. When one speaks of "defending civilization as we know it," one must remember that civilization as these people know it consists of abject poverty, suffering, hunger, prejudice, oppression, unhappiness. Such a civilization they do not wish to fight for.

Yet their needs are being overlooked, and the few gains which they have made have been heartlessly wiped out. They are protesting. Their protests are being drowned by a wave of fifth column hysteria that is being spread by those who are the fifth-columnists themselves. The people want peace and work. But the government has ceased its efforts to give the people what they want. And because it does not wish to do so, because it has surrendered to the forces it was pledged to combat—it is silencing the people with oppression. It is beginning to impose a Hitlerian war economy. A Hitlerian philosophy will result.

There is a test of sincerity. The administration must investigate and expose America's real fifth columnists, such as Father Coughlin. It must not follow the path of the French Popular Front by bringing big business and fascism into government. It must *build* democracy, not curtail it.

Our government cannot fight Hitler by attempting to Hitlerize America. The real fifth column in America is that element which supports such a policy. There is no such thing as a fascism to end all fascism.

ATTENTION, MR. JACKSON.

By HERBERT LANSNER

THE Christian Front trial was a fraud. A month ago *Equality* pointed out at least a dozen evidences of the fact. And now, a month later, still more evidence has been uncovered to add strength to the charge that there was something queer about the whole business.

Several weeks ago, at a meeting in Prospect Hall, Brooklyn, Father Brophy, one of the ecclesiastical leaders of the Christian Front, addressed a "victory celebration" in honor of the nine defendants who were acquitted.

In the middle of his speech, in which incidentally he declared that "the Declaration of Independence was framed by Christians for a Christian people exclusively," Father Brophy made the following astounding remark:

"It may surprise some of you to know that Mrs. Helen Titus, foreman of the jury, is my first cousin."

Most of the audience was not surprised. There were knowing winks, laughs. Father Brophy paused to let it sink in, and then continued his speech.

In the audience that listened to Father Brophy's diatribe was a Unitarian Minister, Rev. Leon M. Birkhead. Rev. Birkhead is national chairman of Friends of Democracy, an organization which has been fighting Coughlin, the Bund and their allies for several years.

Reverend Birkhead was amazed at what he had heard. In order to make sure that he had not been mistaken, he sent a friend to the platform after Brophy had finished to ask the Christian Front priest if the statement was really true. He was assured that it was.

Reverend Birkhead acted quickly. He sent a telegram to Attorney General Robert Jackson.

He recited the facts just as he had heard them. He requested that an investigation of the matter be made immediately.

He did not receive an answer.

A few days later he sent Jackson another telegram. At this writing he is still waiting for a reply.

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In its last article on the Christian Front, *Equality* charged that the prosecution—the United States Government—was not at any time eager to convict the defendants. In support of this claim the following facts were offered:

1. The attitude of J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI:

On the day after the 17 Christian Frontists were arrested, Hoover told reporters that he understood that "the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, radio priest, had no connection with the Christian Front." This in spite of the reams of evidence to the contrary sent to the FBI by numerous organizations in addition to *Equality* itself. More, Father Coughlin himself had said that he was connected with the Christian Front. Hoover's barefaced whitewash was the high sign that the government was not going to go after the higher-ups, the real plotters behind the Christian Front.

2. Promised governmental investigations have been dropped:

Attorney General Jackson's promise to investigate the backers of the Christian Front has been forgotten. Martin Dies' promise to do likewise has also been forgotten—although such an investigation was never really expected in view of Dies' connections with leading Christian Frontists previously exposed in *Equality*. Three other investigations—one by Gov. Lehman of the National Guard, one by Commissioner Valentine of the police department, and one by Mayor La Guardia's assistant, Byrnes MacDonald, have fizzed out.

3. Prosecutor Kennedy's statement that the "avowed principles of the Christian Front are good, sound American principles."

4. Coughlin's boast that "neither the government of the United States nor the Federal Bureau of Investigation had any enthusiasm for this paper-thin 'conspiracy.'"

5. In addition, there is the fact that special prosecutor Rogge was yanked from the scene almost immediately after he was dispatched from Louisiana, and the job was turned over to Kennedy—a clear indication that the government was not interested in a vigorous prosecution of the case, and a verification of the suspicion that the sensational FBI raids of January were made by J. Edgar Hoover for the purpose of obtaining new funds for the FBI, which were up for consideration at the time.

One further fact makes the "phoney" charge complete.

Prospective Christian Front jurors were not asked any of the following questions:

1. Do you or any of your relatives belong to the Christian Front?
2. Do you read Social Justice, the Tablet?
3. Are you a follower of Father Coughlin?
4. Have you contributed to the Parent's Defense Fund, organized to pay trial expenses for the defendants?

It is clear, then, that Mrs. Titus, foreman of the jury, was chosen through what appears to be deliberate neglect on the part of the prosecution. It is conceivable, too, that every member of the jury may have been a member of the Christian Front. The prosecution never bothered asking.

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The attitude of the government in this case becomes clearer every day. The trial was a fraud. Terrorists were given a clear track by a governmental agency that has violated the civil liberties of labor and progressive groups in many parts of the country.

Why doesn't the U. S. Government act? The facts are present in abundance.

The facts of the Christian Front trial demand investigation. If there are a sufficient number of protests, the government will be forced to act.

The Christian Frontists and their leader, Father Coughlin, are America's real fifth columnists. Father Coughlin was so bold as to boast of the fact in his *Social Justice.*

Yet the government refuses to investigate Father Coughlin. By not doing so it lends credence to the charge that it is sheltering and aiding the real fifth column.

WHO WANTS CONSCRIPTION?

STRANGE, isn't it, how Hitler's best U.S. pals of record—Reynolds, Thorkelson, Burke, and their ilk—have become today's super-super-patriots, shouting louder than anyone for regimentation and militarization? And all in the name of defending democracy against Hitlerism!

We retain our suspicions of all those who would fight Hitlerism by instituting Hitlerism in America.

We don't like their alien-baiting, their witch-hunting, their schemes for scuttling labor's gains in the name of national defense, nor their grandiose enterprises for registering and drafting the male (and eventually the female) population. We think this is a phony way to "defend democracy" and we deplore the face that friends of the administration, like Jerry Voorhis, are today so close to the worst reactionaries, like Martin Dies, that their names can be applied interchangeably to the same hamstringing legislation; and more, that such legislation can be approved by President Roosevelt.

We think national defense is achieved not by armaments alone but even more through the morale of a contented and prosperous people in full possession of their civil liberties. Today this morale is being undermined by some of the very people who pretend to be most anti-Hitler. So we wonder about their sincerity, particularly when some of them, like Lame Duck Senator Burke of Nebraska, were so fond of Hitler so recently. (In August 1938, Burke, returning from Europe, declared: "In the things Hitler is actually doing to bring about the well-being of the entire German people, I think he is greater than Bismarck.") It seems to us that people like Burke and Reynolds, as well as the allies they have won from the erstwhile liberal camp, are inclined to use Hitler as a smokescreen, a diversion, while they promote his measures at home.

Aliens First, You Next

It seems to us that the immediate danger is not so much Hitler over in Europe as our Petains and Chamberlains in the U. S. A. Stopping Hitler begins at home.

When the administration turned the heat on to pass an alien registration bill, we said that the next step attempted would be to register citizens and subject them to harassment and snooping. That stage is now upon us in the form of the Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Bill, which is receiving the support of the administration forces.

Why the red tape, extending from the margins of the cradle to the rim of the grave? Why, if not to cast the shadow of intimidation over the whole population, if not to hold a big stick over a people reluctant to forego their traditional American right to speak their mind, if not to police the craftsmen in the national defense industries who could use a few pennies of that fourteen billion dollars to offset rising living costs?

The Burke conscription plan means in effect: (1) Don't "agitate" for wage increases or you will get eight months in camp at $21 a month; (2) if you don't like your working conditions, we can draft some more guys at $21 per and lend them to the industry; (3) if we need still more involuntary labor to depress wages, we will incorporate the President's idea for "youth civilian training" and put several million youngsters to work doing the unskilled and semi-skilled tasks and training them for the skilled ones.

Moreover, the shadow of intimidation lengthens ominously southward beyond the Rio Grande. It is no secret among newspapermen that brass hats in the War Department are talking recklessly about early military occupation of Mexico, not only to punish that nation for her oil policies, but as an example to the rest of Latin America to join up with the Yankee cartels. A conscript army, all dressed up and with nowhere to go, will strengthen the hand of these militarists.

Young America does not like the trade of making war. That is shown by the failure of the highly publicized army enlistment drives. Recruits were few, and often so driven by desperation and want as to be no longer fit for military service. Thus the attempt to accomplish by force what the American people will not do voluntarily in the present atmosphere of repression and foreign adventure.

The Burke-Wadsworth Bill must be stopped! Write to your Senators and Congressmen. There is not a moment to be lost!

YOUTH vs. REGIMENTATION

By JOSEPH CADDEN, Exec. Sec., American Youth Congress

LAKE Geneva, Wisconsin is a place for play. There is sunshine and the lake. And undoubtedly the 553 delegates to the Sixth American Youth Congress were tempted to call the whole thing off and go swimming. But they didn't.

Not one of these young people from the churches, the Y's, the farms, the trade unions, the social clubs, or the student organizations, was talking in ponderous generalities about "the grave issues before our country." They'd heard enough of that from politicians and "statesmen." They were asking questions that were terrifying in their simplicity—and trying to answer them. How can we keep out of war? How can we prevent conscription and regimentation in America? How can we find jobs?

•

The kids from Alabama arrived in an open trailer. They had to push it across the Alabama border because the state police didn't think it was safe to have it jolting behind the battered car. These people wanted to tell about how life is at home. They wanted to find answers to their questions.

The tall, blonde, 23-year old Chairman of the American Youth Congress arrived in a car that had pasteboard box sides instead of windows. Driving up from Arkansas where he is preaching this summer, (he is studying for the ministry), Jack McMichael brought six sharecroppers from Arkansas and Missouri with him. They wanted to know what was to be done about that section of the country where you get 75¢ a day for cotton chopping—and where you can't vote.

But American statesmen weren't talking about 75¢ a day, or poll taxes, or jobs. They were talking about conscription.

It was the President's proposal to conscript the young people of America that has shocked them into a realization of how little time there is to save American democracy. The plan to conscript youth has put militarization, dictatorship and war right up on today's agenda.

Keynoting the Sixth American Youth Congress, Jack McMichael brought the delegates to their feet.

"In the past few weeks," he said, "America has watched with sad eyes the almost unbelievable advance of invasion and treason sweep over Europe in the wake of Hitler's war machine."

"To meet this threat to American democracy there is only one answer. Peace and expanded democracy right here.

"An aggressive national program to meet the crying needs of the two-thirds who are ill-housed, ill-fed, ill-clothed—to defend the people from the real Fifth Column of undernourishment, poor housing, inadequate opportunity for health, joblessness—this is the road to the preservation of American democracy," McMichael said.

"For such a national defense program youth does not need to be conscripted. American youth is ready and anxious to work, live, and even die, for that kind of national defense. American young people want to be sure that this is our country's program, that we will not be asked to defend America against Hitler by Hitlerizing America."

•

The young people have left Lake Geneva. Some have left in $30 cars with stages tied on the roofs to barnstorm through Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Alabama, Missouri and Arkansas with puppet shows to rally the farmers against conscription. Others have gone home to their communities to form local peace councils, to help bring 20,000 people to Chicago for an Emergency Peace Mobilization over Labor Day weekend.

For this they did not need to be conscripted. American young people have formed the greatest volunteer army in the history of the American youth movement—a volunteer army to fight conscription.

COUGHLIN'S APPEASERS

IT IS the very heart of Father Coughlin's subversive strategy to get Gentiles to quarreling with one another over "the Jewish question" and to get Jews to quarreling among themselves and with non-Jews over various political issues. Such confusion prepares the way for his fascist plans. It disrupts the united opposition his conspiracies should meet with. In his recent book, *An Answer to Father Coughlin's Critics*, the fascist priest again and again calls on "good" Jews to fight bad Jews instead of fighting anti-Semitism. "Good" Jews are "religious Jews," in distinction to "irreligious, atheistic Jews," though Father Coughlin is not consistent on this point, for on page 83 he attributes Jewish misfortunes during the past 2,000 years to belief in a false religion.

So it boils down to there really being no good Jews at all! But, what the heck, if Father Coughlin can find some Jews short-sighted enough or venal enough to respond to the invitation, "Let's you and him fight!," why shouldn't he let them do the dirty work that otherwise his anti-Semitic terrorists would have to undertake?

It would be giving the Priest of Royal Oak too much credit to say he originated this tactic of spreading confusion in the ranks of an adversary. It is one of the prime principles set forth in Nazi propaganda manuals.

Naturally Father Coughlin is always on the lookout for "good Jews," who in return for a pat on the back, will denounce as "bad Jews" those who are putting up a bonafide militant fight against anti-Semitism. Occasionally he finds such, for every people has its muddleheads, its turncoats, its cowards who hope to save themselves by bearing witness against their fellows. In Germany, there were Jews who even contributed to the coffers of the National Socialist Party in the expectation of saving their fortunes. They too got a pat on the back. After Hitler came to power they found that the hand that patted concealed a dagger. It did not make much difference whether one were a good or a bad Jew.

Good Jews Please Apply

There will naturally be a few American Jews ready to take at face value the blandishments of a fascist leader who tells them that they will be exempted from the fate of other Jews if they shout names at those who are pointed out to them as "atheistic" and "irreligious." This is playing the game according to the rules fixed by the anti-Semites. Those who play the game this way render invaluable service to the Coughlins; what they say about "bad Jews" is emblazoned in the anti-Semitic press as the crowning proof of Jewish depravity. "If Jews admit it, shall Gentiles deny it?"

A trivial but recent example of Jews writing copy which fits the needs of the anti-Semitic press appeared in a recent issue of the *Jewish Frontier*, which found occasion to carry on in a Mrs. Dilling fashion and call out bad names at *Equality*, John L. Lewis and other current embodiments of evil. The *Frontier* is not a very influential or important publication, nor to our knowledge very widely read in the Jewish community, but it is better, for Father Coughlin's purposes, than nothing at all.

Now it is curious that the *Frontier* editors, who so far as we have been able to find out, have done little but record a genteel opposition to anti-Semitism in the past, are now able to find real resources of invective to turn against *Equality*, a publication that has really gone to the streets and carried on a fight against Coughlinism by placing its vendors side by side with those of *Social Justice!*

Furthermore, the article assailing *Equality*, though reaching a small public in the columns of the *Jewish Frontier*, immediately gained a wide circulation by its republication in full in

the Brooklyn *Tablet*, the largest anti-Semitic publication in America. The *Tablet*, not satisfied with prominent display of the reprint, also published an editorial commending the *Jewish Frontier* for making "a contribution to clarity" —the pat on the back due a "good Jew." Then the anti-Semitic paper adds: "Many months ago the *Tablet* said about what *Jewish Frontier* now says."

We wonder how it feels to be a Jew and have the leading anti-Semitic paper congratulate you for coming around to its point of view?

The *Frontier* is for universal peace-time conscription and for other steps that lead to war, and the chief reason we are bad Jews and bad Gentiles, it seems, is that we are for peace. Well, 93 per cent of the American people are for peace. Does that put us all on the receiving end for a red herring? We are also criticized because our Editorial Council includes "individuals who have never previously evinced any interest in Jewish problems"—as if it were an offense to awaken Americans, Jewish and non-Jewish, to the menace of anti-Semitism and enlist their help in fighting it! It is a short-sighted attitude, indeed, that suggests that anybody has a monopoly on the work for tolerance, and that newcomers are unwelcome.

Well, enough attention to the jealousies and follies of the small-minded, and back to something important, which is how to combat Father Coughlin rather than appease him.

We Stand For—

Equality fights anti-Semitism, while realizing that anti-Semitism is not an isolated problem. When any minority group is subject to persecution in a nominally democratic nation, the rights of all are in danger. When a war hysteria is being whipped up, civil rights are in danger. The fight against anti-Semitism cannot be divorced from the fight for civil liberties and peace.

On this program *Equality* has consistently stood since its first issue. On this program and no other. As our readers well know, *Equality's* editors represent a wide range of political and religious belief; and in these columns there has never appeared one word advocating any creed except the broad creed of democracy and tolerance. *Equality* has refused to join anyone's witch-hunt, because that is a tactic of diversion, a course which the appeasers of Coughlin follow. In the year and a quarter since *Equality* began, much has happened in the world. In this country, some people who once fought for freedom, as we have had sad occasion to point out, have now gone over to the side of Dies and Coughlin. In western Europe, the popular and democratic blocs which might have safeguarded peace by stopping Hitler were broken and routed for the time being by the appeasers, the men of Munich, the Chamberlains and Halifaxes, and the fascists and anti-Semites of France: Petain, Weygand, Ybarnegaray, Laval. *Equality* had no choice but to take note of these changes and to conduct its fight for tolerance, civil liberties, and peace in accordance.

Who can look at the Vichy regime today, issuing anti-Semitic and anti-alien decrees for France, and say we were not right in warning our fellow-Americans that these men were not going to stop Hitler and save democracy?

History, we think, is also going to bear us out on other scores.

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MOBILIZE FOR PEACE!

By WALTER SCOTT NEFF
Exec. Sec., New York E.P.M.

M-Day for peace!

From every part of the United States. From the coal mines, the factories, the noisy offices, the fields, the farms, the kitchens.

From the trade unions, the schools, the church, the women's clubs, the youth groups.

White, Negro, Jew, Protestant, Catholic.

In Chicago, from August 31st to September 2nd, they're going to get together! And they're going to get together for one purpose—to demand that America stay at peace!

•

Emergency Peace Mobilization! 25,000 delegates in a giant protest against conscription, warmongering, suppression of civil liberties!

This gigantic rally is the hope of thousands of peace organizations which have sprung up spontaneously in all parts of the United States. They realize that the forces which are arrayed against them are powerful, that they are firmly entrenched in government. They know that the newspapers are burying or boycotting news of their peace activities. They know that at the present moment their one glaring weakness is the fact that they are scattered, disunited.

They know that they must come together. They know that when they do come together they will speak with a loud voice that the Administration and the press will not dare to ignore.

The Emergency Peace Mobilization (*EPM—remember the initials. Repeat them again and again. Make sure that everyone within hearing distance knows them. Make EPM a household word*) is getting tremendous support. Everybody's throwing hard-earned pennies into this get-together. They know what it means to them.

EPM will speak for those who have most to lose in war. Trade union after trade union has passed enthusiastic resolutions declaring its wholehearted support. Churches are taking up collection funds to pay for delegates' traveling expenses. Colleges are sending delegations with money raised in lemonade sales, puppet shows and community sings.

It's a big job. There are leaflets to be printed. Hundreds of thousands have been turned out. So big has been the demand, that 250,000 new leaflets are being printed by the New York branch just a short time after the first batch were turned out. Letters have been sent to every conceivable organization in the state asking for support.

As *Equality* goes to press the New York Committee is just two days away from a gigantic mass rally for peace at Randall's Island Stadium. Main speaker on the program is Congressman Vito Marcantonio—the only man in the House of Representatives who refused to be taken in by the Administration's war blitzkrieg.

Yes—the people want peace. And they're going to fight for it. Remember—Chicago: Aug. 31 to September 2.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

We are always a little amazed when a liberal does a somersault, even though we are old enough to know better. The 8-to-1 decision by the "liberal" Supreme Court, upholding the right of local officials to expel pupils and jail parents who have religious scruples about saluting the flag, shows at least three things. First, that to depend on "good men," however wise, to watch over our liberties, is to lean on a weak reed. Second, that we are really in the grip of a wave of hysteria that threatens religious as well as civil liberties, and no fooling. Third, that forces high in the government are deliberately fomenting and using hysteria as an instrument of national policy.

The high court decision, making an abrupt reversal of the liberal trend, was both the result of hysteria and a cause of more hysteria. It was a signal for mob attacks on Jehovah's Witness at a score of points from Maine to Wyoming, from Wisconsin to Texas. In one instance, according to the Rev. John Haynes Holmes, writing in the *Christian Century,* a hundred Witnesses, including children and an old woman of 78, "were lashed like cattle for ten miles down a railroad track in the blazing heat of midday, and left beyond the county line to fend for themselves as best they could. This sounds like the Jews in Germany. . . . " Dr. Holmes points out striking similarities between early Christians in Rome and Witnesses in modern America.

We shall not end Hitlerism abroad by establishing Hitlerism at home. There are people in America, and some of them used to be liberals, who spend a suspicious amount of energy beating the bushes for aliens and reds and religious zealots, but never seem to have time to investigate avowed terrorists, fascists, and anti-Semites.

This sort of behavior is strange in a democracy. It is familar in the best German circles and is the basic form of propaganda used by those who are up to no good.

Exiled Anti-Fascists; Let's Show Sincerity.

Everybody who talks about heaven ain't going there. And everybody who talks about saving Europe's civilization from the Nazi blight

(*Continued on following page*)

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won't necessarily seize a practical, immediate opportunity to do something about it.

The acid test of the sincerity of Americans, including government officials, who profess an interest in safeguarding democracy and culture, is their concern over the fate of the anti-fascist exiles in France. These include men and women who are to be turned over on demand to Germany or Italy, under the terms of the Petain surrender, as well as refugees from Spain, now in imminent danger of delivery to Franco's firing squads and concentration camps.

A 4-Point Program

Here is a chance to save some of the flower of European civilization: writers like Lion Feuchtwanger, Friedrich Wolf, Heinrich Mann, and Franz Werfel (if the last-named has not already been shot, as reported); scientists like Dr. Rudolf Neumann and Theodor Balk; and thousands of others who, if less well known in this country, were counted as illustrious custodians of the conscience and civilization of pre-Hitler Europe.

The American Committee for Democracy and International Freedom, of which Prof. Franz Boas, a member of our Editorial Council, is national chairman, has initiated a campaign to obtain the intervention of the American government and the Red Cross on behalf of these exiles whose only crime is "that they have fought for years to preserve democracy in Europe against the onslaught of fascism." It seeks the support of individuals and organizations for its four-point program:

1. Immediate release of the exiles from French concentration camps. (Write French Embassy.)

2. Extension of consular protection until they can be evacuated. (Write the President, Secretary Hull, Senators, Congressmen on this and Point 4.)

3. Evacuation through the agencies of the Red Cross or other international relief organizations. (Write Red Cross National Headquarters at Washington.)

4. Right of asylum in the United States.

Some of the more fortunate exiles have United States or Latin-American visas and await funds or opportunities for passage. The fate of many voters will depend on the strength of world opinion favoring their release. Mexico is among the countries that will take large numbers if transportation is arranged. The *New York Times*, on June 25, asked that American ships be employed for this purpose. The initiative and good offices of the administration, if employed in time, can save lives and talents that the world cannot afford to lose.

Meanwhile as many refugees as possible must be rescued by private initiative. The Exiled Writers Fund of the League of American Writers (381 Fourth Avenue, New York)

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The People, Yes!

Enter the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, born in crisis and dedicated to the proposition that civil liberties are still in order and that fascism, even if called anti-fascism, is a stench in the nostrils of decent Americans.

The new federation made its bow in the nation's capital, June 7, 8, and 9, with sixty-eight organizations participating. Included were the Michigan Civil Rights Federation, the National Emergency Conference for Democratic Rights, the Chicago Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and most of the local and state civil rights groups that have been springing up to affirm that the twentieth century is no fit age for an open season on witches.

Coordination on a nation-wide basis of efforts directed at the protection of the rights of minority groups, non-citizens, and labor will loom large in the work of the N. F. C. L. Offices have been set up at 355 Southern Building, Washington, D. C. Send them 5 cents and they'll send you details, along with the perfectly splendid keynote speech of Edwin S. Smith, member of the National Labor Relations Board.

M-Day to Blitzkrieg

In our June issue, we did a job on the M-Day Plan, showing how it would write finis to freedom of thought, speech, and press, institute a sweeping military and civilian draft, and set up an industrial dictatorship under the rule of ambitious and ruthless men.

The close connection between the thinking of our M-Day planners and Germany's Blitzkrieg makers has also been noted by others. We have it on the authority of John Lear, writing for the Associated Press and quoting a source that is "both official and reliable," that:

1. Shortly after Hitler came to power, the Nazi military attache at Washington spent six months making a minute examination of our M-Day blueprints.

2. The war mobilization system which thereafter took place in Germany was a striking parallel to the American plan, particularly in its industrial features.

3. Operations connected with the occupation of Austria, and more recently of the Low Countries, revealed heavy borrowings from America's M-Day Plan.

We still don't like Hitler regimentation, even after learning that

(*Continued on following page*)

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much of it was borrowed from American sources. We still wouldn't like Hitlerism in this country, even if it were instituted by Hitler's American teachers.

MILESTONES

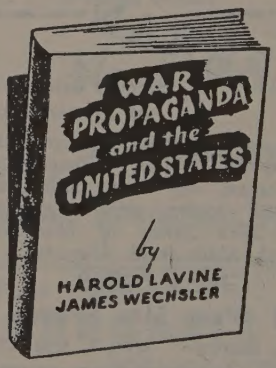
Major danger to civil liberties seen in strong reactionary support placed behind Voorhis-Dies Registration Bill (H. R. 10095) to strangle in red tape organizations "subject to foreign control"; measure so drafted as to apply to trade unions with Canadian affiliations or A. F. of L. membership in International Federation of Trade Union. . . . When writing to your Senators, also call for defeat of Hobbs Cencentration Camp Bill, Dempsey Deportation Bill, and alien baiting legislation in general. . . . Southern Negro Youth Congress launching Right to Vote Campaign. . . . Michigan Civil Rights Federation protests University of Michigan's expulsion of six students for anti-war activities. . . . Negro Exposition depicting seventy-five years of progress opens in Chicago. . . . Body of Elbert Williams, Negro right-to-vote advocate, found in Tennessee river after secret lynching. . . . Grays Harbor (Wash.) National Committee establishes headquarters at 112 E. 19th Street, New York, to probe vigilante violence in county where Laura Law was murdered. . . . Sixty-five public figures, all non-Communists, call for safeguarding electoral rights of Communist Party. . . . American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, 519 West 121st Street, New York, seeks funds to combat drive of Merwin K. Hart (link between Dies and Christian Front) to ban books of Prof. Harold Rugg and others from public schools.

WAR PROPAGANDA AND THE UNITED STATE.

By HAROLD LAVINE and JAMES WECHSLER

This 363-page book, just published for the Institute for Propaganda Analysis by Yale University Press, deals with the tremendous propaganda war in which the stakes are America's intervention in, or isolation from, Europe's stupendous conflict. The authors are Harold Lavine, Editorial Director of the Institute, and James Wechsler of New York's new newspaper, PM.

Paper-bound copies of *War Propaganda and the United States* have been sent to all subscriber-members of the Institute. Send your subscription today. For $2 you will receive this new, timely book dealing, concretely, with propagandas affecting America in its hour of grave decision. In addition, throughout the year, you will receive the Institute's monthly bulletins and occasional special studies dealing with current propagandas.



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Paul Robeson to Sing for Equality

—at the home of Lillian Hellman, Hardscrabble Farm, Hardscrabble Road, Pleasantville, New York
Sunday, August 11, 8:30 P. M.

PAUL ROBESON will sing "Ballad for Americans."

MARC BLITZTEIN will play excerpts from his new opera, "No For An Answer."

JOHN LaTOUCHE, author of the Ballad, will present a new song, "100% American Girls."

● Subscription $3.50 ●

Tickets, with directions, available at office of *Equality*, 512 Fifth Avenue, New York City.